Paul "Rex" James, 76

Paul "Rex" James, 76, of Searsboro, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2008 at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

His funeral service was held Saturday, Feb. 2, 2008, at the Grinnell Christian Church with the Rev. John Epperson officiating. Interment was at Searsboro Cemetery in Searsboro. Smith Funeral Home of Grinnell was in charge of the arrangements. Memorials may be directed to the Rex James Memorial Fund to benefit organizations of the family's choice. Online condolences may be submitted to the family at www.smithfh.com.

Rex was born the son of William Edgar James and Ethel Marie Guthrie James on Nov. 5, 1931 at Hedrick. He was raised in Hedrick and Lacey before the family moved to Searsboro in 1944. He graduated from Searsboro High School with the Class of 1950. Following his education, he served his country as a sergeant in the United States Army during the Korean War from 1952 to 1954.

He was united in marriage to Jo Ann Zimmerman on Aug. 31, 1958 at the Union Mills Christian Church in New Sharon. To this union were born their children, Fritz, Tammy and R.C.

Rex was an active cattlemen and farmed near Searsboro since 1962. He was a member of the Grinnell Christian Church, the American Legion in Malcom, the Masonic Lodge in Searsboro, Farm Bureau, the Iowa Red Angus Association, the National Red Angus Association, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association, and the National Cattlemen's Association.

Rex was an outdoorsman who held a passion for farming the land and was a dedicated cattlemen. He began raising Red Angus cattle in 1964 and was a state- and nationally-known Red Angus breeder. The couple traveled to cattle shows throughout the United States including Denver, Colorado, Fort Worth, Texas; Louisville, Ky.; Billings, Mont., San Francisco, Calif.; Kansas City, Mo. and locally at the Iowa State Fair. His enjoyments included making homemade ice cream for the grandchildren, joking with his family and friends and watching sporting events on TV.

Rex is survived by his wife of 49 years, Jo Ann James of Searsboro; his sons, Fritz (Marcy) James of Searsboro and R.C. (Kathy) James of Searsboro; his daughter Tammy (Craig) Wallace of Stotts City, Mo.; four grandchildren, Paige and Sam Wallace of Stotts City, Mo., and Zach and Aly James of Searsboro; and his sister, Lois Whitmer of Cedar Rapids.

Rex was preceded in death by his parents; his brothers, William and Warren James; and his sister Nellie Deibler.
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Paul 'Rex' James

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A funeral service will be held Saturday, Feb. 2, at 10:30 a.m. at Grinnell Christian Church. Interment will be in the Searsboro Cemetery in Searsboro.

Friends may call at Smith Funeral Home on Friday beginning at 12 noon with family members present from 5 to 8 p.m.

Memorials may be made to the Rex James Memorial Fund to benefit organizations of the family's choice. Online condolences may be submitted to the family at www.smithfh.com.